

Date of Hearing: April 26, 2011

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Paul J. Cook, Chair

AB 629 (Monning) – As Amended: April 4, 2011

SUBJECT: California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord ("Cemetery")

SUMMARY: This bill authorizes the California Department of Veterans Affairs ("Department") to subcontract the Cemetery design and construction to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority ("FORA.")

EXISTING LAW: Under existing law the design and construction of the Cemetery will be done by the Department of General Services ("DGS").

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: The former Fort Ord site is the subject of reuse and redevelopment plans by FORA. One portion of the former site is planned as the Cemetery and has been so dedicated for approximately 10 years, however, little progress has been made. In order to get the Cemetery started, private donations must fully fund the Cemetery design and planning costs in the form of an endowment (the "Endowment"). After the Endowment is funded sufficiently to design and plan the Cemetery, the balance of its costs for construction will be paid by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The current cost estimate of the necessary design funding (Preliminary Plans and Working Drawings) for the Endowment is \$2,090,000 if DGS were to oversee the Cemetery project, as will occur without this bill. If the Department is allowed pursuant to this bill to subcontract this project to FORA, the cost estimate for that same portion of the project is \$1,531,380. The difference in the cost of design fees between FORA and DGS is \$558,620.00. This is both a substantial savings and a large reduction in the money needed to fund the Endowment. Having a smaller "threshold" amount needed to fund the Endowment should make it easier to get the Cemetery started.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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